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TAGS: SOPN, KS, US
SUBJECT: KOREAN MEDIA ON US-RELATED TOPICS, MARCH 8
REF: SEOUL 1846 (DTG 070830Z MAR 78)

1. VANCE/PARK TALKS. THREE EDITORIALS COMMENT FAVORABLY ON FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING AND HEALTHY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS; ALL MENTION KIM TONG-CHO TESTIMONY ISSUE. SINA ILBO DECRIES "STUBBORN, EMOTIONAL" ATTITUDE OF CONGRESS AND JAWORSKI'S DEMANDING "VOLUNTARY COOPERATION" OF KIM. TONE OF TONGA ILBO EDITORIAL DIFFERS, SAYING ISSUE IS NOT SUCH A DIFFICULT PROBLEM AND "MUST BE EXPLORED IN A TECHNICAL MANNER, SO AS TO BE AMICABLY SETTLED WITHOUT MAKING A BAD PRECEDENT OF ABANDONING PRINCIPLE OF DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGE. PTS WAS NOT THE ENTIRE CAUSE FOR DETERIORATION OF US/ROK RELATIONS. BUT CERTAINLY MOST IMPORTANT, AND CLIMATE FOR RESTORATION OF GOOD RELATIONS IS BETTER NOW." JOONGANG ILBO REPORTS MOFA HAD UNPRECENDETEDLY STRONG REACTION TO RUMOR THAT VANCE/PARK TALKED ABOUT

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POSSIBLE WRITTEN REPLY FROM KIM TONG-CHO TO CONGRESS. VICE MINISTER YUN HA-CHONG: "IT IS UNTHINKABLE EVEN FROM THE POINT OF COMMON SENSE; TOTALLY GROUNDLESS; NO SUCH THING WAS DISCUSSED IN THE MEETING." REPORT YUN MET PRIME MINISTER WITH COPY OF TELEGRAM CONTAINING CONTENTS OF MEETING, AND PARK SANG-YONG TELEPHONED KIM TONG-CHO TO INFORM HIM RUMOR WAS GROUNDLESS.

2. TITO VISIT: PROMINENT COVERAGE TO NSC SPOKESMAN SAYING TITO BRIEFED CARTER ON HIS PYONGYANG VISIT; TWO PRESIDENTS REVIEWED THE KOREAN PENINSULA SITUATION; TITO CARRIED NO MESSAGE FROM KIM IL-SUNG. "OTHER SOURCES" REPORT THAT CARTER RESPONDED TO TITO'S QUESTION OF DIRECT NK/US CONTACT WITH US POSITION THAT ONLY WITH PARTICIPATION OF ROK WAS CONTACT POSSIBLE.

3. TEAM SPIRIT: WIRE SERVICES REPORT ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF ROGERS TELLING CONGRESS ONE OBJECTIVE IS TO

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DEMONSTRATE THE FIRM COMMITMENT OF US TO ROK'S DEFENSE. REPORT ROGERS CITED KOREA AS ONE OF FOUR AREAS IN THE WORLD WITH POTENTIAL FOR HOSTILITIES, AND US GROUND TROOPS CAN BE PROMTPLY DEPLOYED.

4. PTS: AP STORY CARRIED THAT PTS GAVE OVER $500,000 TO REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING 24 INCUMBENTS.

5. STRAIGHT NEWS COVERAGE OF BENSON'S SENATE TESTIMONY; DEPT SOURCES ON HABIB'S RESIGNATION.

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